36. A method of retrieving patient data in an electronic medical records system having a patient data repository, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a patient identifier;

locating a patient record corresponding to the patient identifier in the patient data repository;

determining the location of the patient data within the patient record.

37. The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of delivering the patient data.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein the patient data repository includes a cache and a data archive.

39. The method of claim 38, further comprising the step of delivering the patient data when the patient data is located in the cache.

40. The method of claim 38, further comprising the steps of:

moving the patient data from the data archive when the patient data is not located in the cache; and

delivering the patient data.

41. A method of managing a patient data repository having a cache and a data archive, comprising the steps of:

monitoring a status of data within the cache; and

moving the data to the data archive when the status exceeds a threshold.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein the threshold comprises a selected time and the status comprises the duration of time the data has been in the cache.

43. The method of claim 41, wherein the threshold comprises a selected portion of the storage capacity of the cache and the status comprises the filled portion of the cache.

44. A method of communicating with an external source having an interface to an electronic medical records system, comprising the steps of:

finding an interface for the external source;

connecting to the external source using the interface; and

converting patient data for transfer between the external source and the electronic medical records system.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein the step of converting patient data for transfer comprises converting patient data for transfer from the electronic medical records system to the external source.

46. The method of claim 44, wherein the step of converting patient data for transfer comprises converting patient data for transfer from the external source to the electronic medical records system.

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